

Newsletter #3 Autumn '23



It's been an exciting and busy couple of months for Perth Pickleball Club. Following the launch of our website, app and booking system, we have grown our membership, dealt with two extreme weather events, had venue closures to contend with, successfully sold-out two coaching clinics, and brought a dozen new players into the game. We hope members and subscribers will enjoy reading all the news.



Update from our club Chair

The weekend of the 7-8th October saw extreme flooding in Perth resulting in Bells Sports Centre suffering a great deal of damage. Since then, the volunteer committee members have worked hard speaking to various potential venues to find court space which has proved challenging – especially given that there are many other clubs affected by the closure of Bell's and we are all looking for new indoor venues.

However, we have been successful in securing court availability on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Academy of Sport & Wellbeing, UHI Perth, so these sessions will resume shortly - albeit at adjusted times. (See programme for details.)

If your usual session has been affected, I would encourage you to try out the Thursday evening and Saturday morning sessions where we will now be introducing **graded play** to ensure all members of varying abilities and experience can enjoy pickleball with appropriately and fairly matched recreational game play.


The committee thanks you for your patience during these changes and whilst we develop our sessions in order to keep improving standards of play. Here's hoping that we've seen the worst of the autumn weather.

Best wishes,
Wendy Coventry

INTRODUCTION OF GRADED PLAY:

Club members will be allocated a default grade to help us organise sessions where players can participate in groups of similar ability. This ensures that members with varying pickleball core skills and experience can benefit from more appropriately and fairly matched recreational game play. This will involve some graded activities and/or graded courts – see programme for further details.

Players can move up through the grades as their skills develop and will be able to track their own progress by taking a Pickleball Core Skills Play Test. Our Club Coaches are available to work with players to help them develop core skills. Play Tests will be offered to the membership on a monthly basis.

Pickleball Core Skills Play Test				
Coach			Score	
Player				
Date				
	Drives	Forehand	0	
		Backhand	0	
	Serves	Deep forehand	0	
		Deep backhand	0	
	Returns	Deep forehand side	0	
		Deep backhand side	0	
	Volley	At kitchen	0	
		From drives	0	
	Dinks	Cross forehand	0	
		Cross backhand	0	
	Drops	Forehand cross court	0	
	Lobs	Forehand	0	
				PPC Skill Grade Pending

Pickleball Core Skills Play Test

We have devised a unique tool that will help our members on the Player Development Pathway in several ways:

1. Provide you with a way to assess your own individual skills and ability level.
2. Help you track your progress over time.
3. Support you in identifying skills that need to be worked on, improved and developed.
4. Offer an objective grading which can be used to book into Recreational Graded Play sessions and/or courts.

The 30-minute Play Test is conducted 1-to-1 with John Macrae our Pickleball Scotland certified coach and is open to any player looking to develop their game or move up a grade – with the exception of NP to C2 which does not require a Play Test.

Note: The grades are A, B, C1, C2 and NP (new player); this has no direct relationship with the Pickleball Scotland ranking system 1.0 – 5.0+ which is not a Player Development tool. In most cases, the default grade allocated is a starting point, and a badged grade can be adjusted according to evidence of skills development. Many of us are just playing for fun and may not, therefore, want or need to take a Play Test.

We are planning November and December Play Test sessions before the festive holidays and members will be able to book their individual Play Test (£5) through our website and app. Keep an eye out for dates and times!

NEW Weekly programme:

Monday ● ●

14:00 - 16:00 Recreational Graded Play (Grade A/B)

Wednesday ● ● ● ● ●

10:15 – 12:15 Mixed Ability Recreational Session (All grades)

Thursday

16:00 – 17:30 Pickleball for Wellbeing session (All grades) ● ● ● ● ●

18:00 – 20:00* Recreational graded play (Grade A/B) ● ●

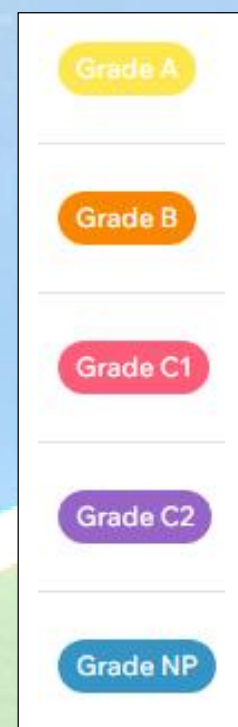
18:00 – 20:00* Recreational graded play (Grade C) ● ●

* 17:30 – 19:30 from 23 November

Saturday

09:30 – 11:30 Recreational graded play (Grade A/B) ● ●

09:30 – 11:30 Recreational graded play (Grade C) ● ●



Please note: due to court availability issues beyond our control there are some exceptions to the programme schedule. See the website and app for details.



Membership update

If anyone needs proof of how popular pickleball is rapidly becoming, just take a look at our membership numbers. We are absolutely delighted that so many people wanted to join PPC, but as with most sports clubs, there is a limit on capacity based on session and court availability. In late September, we took the difficult decision to close the membership list and open a waiting list. This ensures that the existing members have fair access to the current session programme. Some sessions are especially popular and bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis, so we recommend early booking.

Currently our full weekly programme offers 87 places across five different sessions to serve a membership of 90. We will continue working with our existing partner venues as well as exploring other venues with the aim of increasing court capacity and hopefully opening up membership to our waiting list as soon as we can in 2024.

Club Coaching Clinics

September

Perth Pickleball Club
Coaching Clinic
Thursday 21 September
18:00 - 20:00

Are you ready to
firefight?

Improve your net-play skills and develop a stronger volley game

£10pp places are so booking is e

Venue: ASW at UHI Perth
Book via www.perthpickleballclub.com or on the club App

October

LIKE IT'S HOT!

DROP IT!

Coaching Clinic
19 October, 6-8pm
Members can book via website or app
Limited places so book now!

Coming soon in November

Core skills clinic

Dinks • Volleys • Drives

Thursday 16 November 17:30 - 19:30
ASW UHI Perth
£10pp
Book via website or app

Our clinics have proved very popular with each one selling-out fast. You can develop your skills by just playing games; but we believe that players improve more rapidly and gain a far better understanding of the game, core skills, techniques and tactics through our clinics. We try to make training and co-learning together as much fun as possible. No matter what skill level you are currently at, there's benefit to be found from participating in a coaching clinic. Hope to see you there!

Our Thursday 14 December Coaching Clinic will be our second **Cardio Pickleball** session, but with an 'All Request' play-list! When you book a place you'll be able to submit your top 3 music tracks for potential inclusion on the play-list – but DJ Sandra reserves the right to play whatever she wants!



PICKLEBALL CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2023

BLACK WATCH CAFÉ

PERTH

3PM TO 5PM

MINCE PIES/SCONES/SHORTBREAD

TEA/COFFEE/MULLED WINE

£6 PAYABLE ON DAY

As there are limited spaces, please contact us asap to book.

perthpickleballclub@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there.



Festive holiday dates:
 Last session is Saturday 16th December
 We restart on Monday 8th January 2024

We are proud to collaborate with:

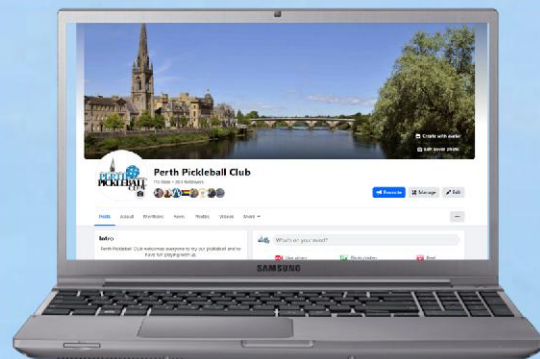
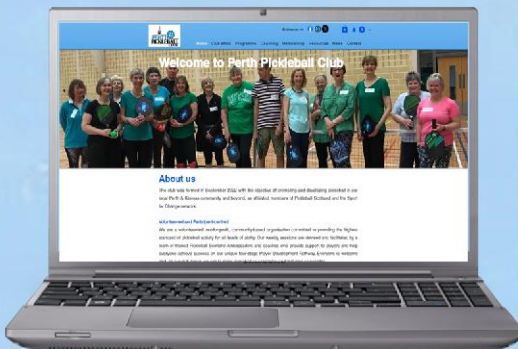


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